

PATENT SPECIFICATION

(11) 1 493 103

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- (21) Application No. 3225/75 (22) Filed 24 Jan. 1975
 (23) Complete Specification filed 14 Jan. 1976
 (44) Complete Specification published 23 Nov. 1977
 (51) INT CL⁷ G09F 7/12
 (52) Index at acceptance
 G5C 14C 15A 19 7
 B6C 67 68A6B
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(54) ADHESIVE CHARACTERS

(71) We, MOROL LIMITED, a British Company, of Gresham Road, Staines, Middlesex, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The invention relates to adhesive characters and particularly to transfer character sheets comprising adhesive characters on removable mounts.

It is well known to provide adhesive characters, such as letters, numerals and so forth, in a temporary mount which covers the adhesive on the character, the mounts being removed from the character when it is desired to apply the character to a backing member. Difficulty is normally encountered in spacing and aligning the individual characters to form the desired configuration, for example a correctly-spaced word, on the backing member.

It is an object of the present invention to provide adhesive characters which can readily be spaced accurately relative to adjacent characters.

The invention provides a transfer character sheet comprising a temporary mount and a character adhering to the mount, in which the mount has a single notch, slit or perforation spaced inwardly from one side edge of the mount as viewed with the character in a vertical position, for registration with the opposite side edge of a second similar mount of an overlapping adjacent transfer character sheet whereby to space apart the characters of the sheets, which characters are positioned on the mounts so that a desired spacing is obtained after removal of the mounts.

Preferably the notch is of inverted V-shaped and preferably the notch is arranged in the bottom edge of the mount with one edge of the inverted V parallel to the said one side edge of the mount.

The invention also provides a sign formed from at least two of the transfer character sheets described above.

Further features and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description with reference to the accompanying drawing which is a perspective view of three transfer character sheets according to the invention and in which one of the sheets has part of its mount removed.

A transfer character sheet 10 comprises a rectangular mount formed in two parts, an upper portion 11 and a lower portion 12 divided by a horizontal transverse slit 13.

An adhesive character 15 adheres to the two portions of the mount 11, 12 by an adhesive layer (not shown) on the back of the character.

A notch 16 is cut in the bottom edge of the lower portion 12 of the mount and is spaced inwardly a small distance from the right-hand edge 17 of the mount as viewed in the figure. The notch 16 is preferably of inverted V-shape and is arranged with the edge 19 of the inverted V, which is adjacent to the edge 17, parallel to the edge 17.

The adhesive character 15 may be made of any suitable material but a smooth opaque vinyl film is a particularly good material coated with an adhesive of the high-tack pressure sensitive type such as an acrylic or rubber resin.

The upper and lower portions of the mount may also be made of any suitable material, but a flexible 'release' paper is particularly suitable. By the term 'release' paper is meant a paper coated with a non-stick surface such as a silicone, to which the character will temporarily adhere but from which the character may be readily peeled.

A sign may be formed on a backing member by using the transfer character sheet as follows:—

a base line 20 is first drawn on the backing member 21 at a small distance below the desired position of the eventual sign; the upper portion 11, of the mount of a first character sheet is then removed and the character sheet placed with its bottom edge on the base line 20 and the character on the sheet affixed by its upper part to the backing member (as shown at A in the drawing); the

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upper portion of the mount of a second character sheet is then peeled off and the second character is aligned with the first by placing the second character sheet with its bottom edge on the base line and its left hand side edge overlapping the right hand side edge of the first character sheet so that the left-hand edge 18 of the lower mount portion 12 is aligned with the edge 19 of the notch. After the characters on their mounts have thus been aligned the second character is affixed to the backing member by its upper part; any remaining characters in the sign are then similarly aligned with the preceding ones and affixed to the backing member by their upper parts; the characters are now correctly spaced apart on the backing member; the lower portion of the mount of each character sheet is then removed and the lower portion of each character pressed down on to the backing member to complete the formation of the sign.

If it is desired to prefabricate a sign and then supply it to a backing member in one step, a transfer tape may be used. This term is used to denote a tape covered on one surface with low-tack adhesive. The sign is formed by aligning the required characters face down on the transfer tape by using the notches and a base line as described above but without removing the mounts. The characters are then affixed to the transfer tape by the low-tack adhesive. When it is desired to affix the sign to a backing member, the mounts are removed and the characters are pressed against the backing member. Since the adhesive on the characters is high-tack and the adhesive on the transfer tape is low-tack, the transfer tape may then be peeled off, leaving the characters affixed to the backing member.

The invention is not restricted to the preferred embodiment described above. For instance, the V-shaped notch formed in the lower edge of each mount may be replaced by a hole of any shape punched through the mount at a point adjacent to the lower edge of the mount.

Furthermore the spacing of the letters may be varied by aligning the edge 18 of the mount with some part of the notch of an

adjacent mount other than the edge 19, for example with the opposite corner of the notch.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A transfer character sheet comprising a temporary mount and a character adhering to the mount, in which the mount has a single notch, slit or perforation spaced inwardly from one side edge of the mount as viewed with the character in a vertical position, for registration with the opposite side edge of a second similar mount of an overlapping adjacent transfer character sheet whereby to space apart the characters of the sheets, which characters are positioned on the mounts so that a desired spacing is obtained after removal of the mounts.

2. A transfer character sheet as claimed in claim 1 in which the notch is of inverted V-shape.

3. A transfer character sheet as claimed in claim 2 in which the notch is arranged in the bottom edge of the mount with one edge of the inverted V parallel to the said one side edge of the mount.

4. A transfer character sheet as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the mount comprises two portions, which may be removed separately.

5. A transfer character sheet substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawing.

6. A sign formed from at least two transfer character sheets as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the characters of the sheets are aligned on a backing member.

7. A sign as claimed in claim 6 in which the characters were aligned on transfer tape before being applied to the backing member.

8. A sign substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as shown in the accompanying drawing.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

*This drawing is a reproduction of
the Original on a reduced scale*

